

## The Bible in Time - 2021 Overview

Like the rest of the United States, I have been confined to my house because of the real COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020. It came at a time in my life where I recently retired. This time has given me a lot of time to rest, recreate, think, and pray in the next directions in my life.

Like every disciple of Jesus Christ, I ask the question regularly, "What is God calling me to do?" It has been my good fortune and blessing to have been able to teach Christian adults in one form or another the Bible and study it since 1993. I continue with this calling.

In 2020, I took a sabbatical from doing a brief daily reflection on the Episcopal Daily Office readings on my blog [The Bible in Time: Read the Bible, Pray the Prayers, Hear the Call, Serve the World!](#) (There have been over 1800 posts and 97,000 views over the last seven years as of today.)

This year, 2021, I will begin a study on the New Testament that will be a **chronological study**. Basically, we will reading, praying, and studying the Bible based on the estimated time that each of the books of the New Testament was written. Since the Bible has been studied, scholars and faithful Christians have been guessing when each of the books has been written. (more on that later.)

I will be posting daily, Monday - Friday, beginning January 1st. I will announce vacation days as they occur.

The order of the books of the Bible's New Testament is the Gospels, the Book of Acts (Vol. 2 of Luke's writings of the early Church), The Letters of Paul and others, and the Book of Revelation. These were in the form first as oral and then by individual scrolls circulated by the infant Church. The order or [canon of the New Testament](#) was determined in the 300's C.E. (common era) by leaders of the Church that circulated lists of what scrolls to use. The letters section of the New Testament was arranged by the size of the scrolls - longest to smallest - and not when each of them was written. The Church from time to time has reviewed the New Testament canon.

For this class, the basic texts are:

- a Christian Holy Bible that has been published in this century. I will be using **The New Oxford Annotated Bible, 5th edition**

(ISBN 978-0-19-027608-9; Oxford University Press USA; © 2018.) I am suggesting that you use a study Bible.

- Gene Edwards, **Revolutionary Bible Study** (ISBN 978-0-97975157-8; SeedSowers Publishing; © 2009) I like the large print and the dynamism built into the text.
- I will refer to other resources. [My favorites are here.](#)

Let us pray ...

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

- Book of Common Prayer, Proper 28

Second Week in Advent  
Friday, 11 December 2020

Dave Eitland, Biblical Teacher - [deitland@gmail.com](mailto:deitland@gmail.com)

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